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COMIREX-M-109  
15 October 1970

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COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLOITATION

NRO & DIA REVIEWS COMPLETED COMIREX-M-109  
15 October 1970

Following is the index of the Minutes of the 15 October 1970  
COMIREX meeting:

Section I (Briefings)

None

Section II (Approval of Minutes)

Page 4 COMIREX-M-105, M-106, and M-107

Section III (Operations)

Page 4 Satellite Schedule

Page 5 Report on Aircraft and Drone Activities

Section IV (Action Items)

Page 6 Consideration of Draft Report for USIB--Review  
of Imagery Satellite Schedule and Coverage Prospects  
FY 71 and Beyond (COMIREX-D-14.6/3A and  
COMIREX-D-14.6/3B)

Page 10 Draft Program for Planning Exploitation FY 1973-1977  
(COMIREX-31.5/5B)

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GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM  
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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Section V (Other Business)

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Section VI (Subcommittee and Working Group Reports)

None

Secretary's Note

Page 14

DIA Request for Use of Sanitized KH-4 Imagery  
in Support of CINCPAC OPLANS 27 and 42  
(COMIREX-D-2, 6/6)

Tabs

A

Satellite Operations Schedule

B

Report on Aircraft and Drone Activities

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COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLOITATION

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COMIREX-M-109  
Auditorium, [REDACTED]  
15 October 1970  
1000-1330

MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT

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CHAIRMAN: [REDACTED]

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CIA: [REDACTED] Navy: Cdr. H. W. Gamber  
State: Mr. L. A. Moyer, Jr. Air Force: Col. J. C. Wayne  
DIA: [REDACTED] NSA: [REDACTED]  
Army: Mr. J. C. St. Cyr

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Office of the Chairman: [REDACTED] Executive Secretary

CONSULTANTS PRESENT

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NPIC: [REDACTED] Security: [REDACTED]  
NRO: [REDACTED]

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SUBCOMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP REPRESENTATION

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ICRS: [REDACTED] SDWG: [REDACTED]  
EXRAND: [REDACTED]  
EXSUBCOM: [REDACTED]

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ALTERNATES AND OBSERVERS PRESENT

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DIA: [REDACTED] NPIC: [REDACTED]  
Air Force: Col. S. Meahl, Jr.  
NSA: [REDACTED]

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\*For part of meeting.

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Section I (Briefings)

None Scheduled.

Section II (Approval of Minutes)

COMIREX-M-105, M-106, and M-107

1. COMIREX-M-105 and COMIREX-M-106 covering the regular meetings of 3 and 17 September 1970 were approved. Since COMIREX-M-107 had not been available for review prior to this meeting, it was agreed that approval would be implied if no comments were called in to the Executive Secretary, by c. o. b. Wednesday, 21 October.

Section III (Operations)

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Satellite Schedule

☐ C, ☐ T-KH)

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1. ☐ distributed copies of the satellite operations schedule as of 15 October 1970. A copy is attached at Tab A.

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Report on Aircraft and Drone Activities

☐ I/T; T-KH)

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3. Reports presented on aircraft and drone activities in the Far East, the Middle East cease-fire zone, and Cuba, and on coverage of special targets in the Far East are summarized in Tab B.

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Section IV (Action Items)

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Consideration of Draft Report for USIB--Review of Imagery  
Satellite Schedule and Coverage Prospects FY 71 and Beyond  
(COMIREX-D-14.6/3A and COMIREX-D-14.6/3B) ☐ T-KH,C, ☐

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1. ☐ explained that he hoped primarily to effect coordination today on the portions of subject report distributed at last week's special meeting (COMIREX-D-14.6/3A). He noted that additional materials, including a draft cover memorandum and certain revised sections of the study reflecting data provided by the NRO last week on flexibility factors and supplemental platforms (COMIREX-D-14.6/3B), had been distributed just prior to the opening of today's meeting. No attempt would be made to coordinate these at this session. He would, however, solicit general views on the points discussed in the covering memorandum.

2. The Chairman felt it would not be productive to attempt a line-by-line review of the basic study for editorial changes. He asked members, however, to identify any inaccuracies, disagreements in emphasis, qualifications that should be made, or areas that require clarification as the major sections were reviewed. There were still portions of the study incomplete, such as the need for additional discussion of an interim capability for imagery satellite coverage during crisis situations.

3. ☐ stated he would verify historical data presented in the study. He did not feel, however, that the NRO could formally concur in the selection of options or the conclusions reached, since these were matters of COMIREX discretion for this study. Stressing that neither USIB nor COMIREX ever expected that the NRO would be held responsible for conclusions reached in the study, the Chairman said there was a definite requirement for the NRO to either validate the background data included or indicate appropriate revisions in order that USIB members might have a correct understanding of the factors affecting flexibility and what options may be feasible. ☐ noted the options

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presently covered in the paper would not necessarily represent all of the alternatives potentially available. Hypothetically, a wide range of option combinations and trade-offs exist. They can only be firmly delimited and precisely identified in terms of a specific requirement. The NRO had, therefore, provided information only on the particular range of options requested. The Chairman observed he has operated on the assumption that the NRO Consultant and the NRO Staff, in looking at problems COMIREX is addressing, would use judgment and initiative to provide any information that is clearly relevant whether or not specifically asked for. [ ] replied that, since the COMIREX study is designed as a general survey, the NRO has furnished information on options or alternatives that are currently available "on the shelf". Once a specific problem is firmly defined, it might be possible to submit specifications to a number of contractors who would then be able to develop additional alternatives.

4. With regard to the draft cover memorandum, the Chairman emphasized it must be made clear that the basic question is not one of cost and benefits of an interim system as opposed to a near-real-time system, but rather whether there are any additional interim measures that can be developed to provide some crisis coverage insurance until the introduction of a near-real-time system. Another point to be included is a statement indicating the direction of the NRO's system development efforts with respect to search, surveillance, and timeliness has been fully responsive to USIB requirements. Further, it must be made clear that USIB has not expressed a requirement for the kind of interim crisis capability that is being addressed in this paper. USIB did consider the crisis response problem in July 1969 and at that time established the requirement for development of a near-real-time system. The Board did not then, however, nor has it since, formally levied a requirement for any limited capability interim system.

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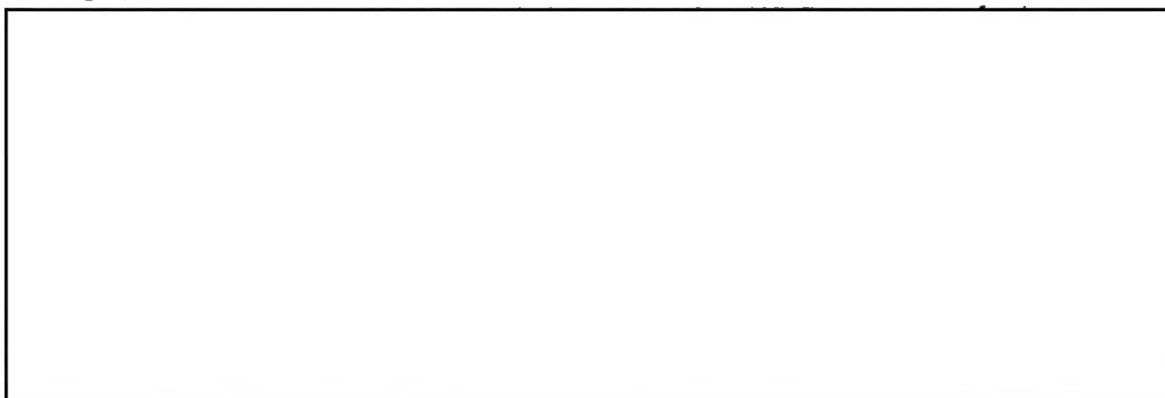
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5. It was also necessary to recognize that there exists in the short term certain unique problems with regard to imagery satellite crisis coverage about which little could be done at this time. In the period beyond the next 18 to 24 months, however, until the availability of near-real-time in 1975, there are gaps which conceivably could be filled by a system or



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to evaluate what combination of system characteristics, availability time, and cost might satisfy an interim requirement. Mr. Moyer agreed the paper must recognize this problem but should not attempt to advocate procurement of any particular system. It was agreed that sufficient information and guidance are not yet available to address a specific interim requirement.

6. The DIA representative commented on the importance of insuring that findings in the cover memorandum correlate with the facts presented in the basic study. In this regard, [redacted] observed that the tables and text of the study will also be closely checked to assure consistency and accuracy in the final version. A major problem still to be worked out with the NRO, however, is that of developing a realistic and practical presentation of future launch schedules.

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7. Colonel Wayne raised the point that the Committee's report must be responsive to both aspects of concern to Dr. Cline, and address not only crisis coverage but also fulfillment of the search requirement. The Chairman noted that the paper attempted

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to do this. As to adequacy of search, for example, the

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8. Members' comments on various aspects of the draft included suggestions for added information, acknowledgment of the expectation that any system will have a failure from time to time, and explanation of the methodology for accounting accomplishment [redacted] It was also agreed that, insofar as possible, the paper should reflect the best practical estimate of dates for [redacted] system launches. The Chairman said these dates would be held open until final typing and, if necessary, would be prefixed by an appropriate qualifying phrase to reflect the fluid situation existing.

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9. There was agreement to include a statement on the fact that the CCRP [redacted]

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[redacted] referred to the NRO preference for winter or summer missions based on the optimum season for a particular system to be launched, [redacted]

[redacted] the requirement for continuity of coverage and the opportunity to have a satellite on orbit at regular intervals remain overriding considerations.

10. With regard to defining nominal, best, and worst-cases for comparative purposes, [redacted] noted these must of

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necessity be based on some arbitrary assumptions. He asked the NRO to review the comparative situations discussed in the draft to insure they were realistic and represented a fair presentation of the outlook.

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11. In closing, [ ] noted that in view of the pressing need to have the final report forwarded to USIB as soon as possible, it would be difficult to circulate another complete draft of the basic study for detailed coordination. He invited continuing participation by the members in the drafting and review process going on in his office. They should forward or telephone any comments or inputs as soon as available and were invited to visit his office at any time to review any portion of the draft. He asked that members, after they have had an opportunity to review the sections of the study distributed today, notify [ ] if they felt a meeting on them would be necessary. In any case, a special meeting would be scheduled early next week for detailed review and coordination of the covering memorandum. The series of tables being prepared as an annex to the basic study probably will not be sent out for coordination since they are factual and intended solely for background reference.

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Draft Program for Planning Exploitation FY 1973-1977  
(COMIREX-D-31.5/5B) (T-KH)

12. The Executive Secretary noted that the format and content of the initial draft for the Program for Planning Exploitation FY 1973-1977 are similar to those employed in previous years. Members are asked to study the draft and consider the extent to which it is responsive to the charge placed on COMIREX under the National Tasking Plan.

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13. [ ] commented on the usefulness of this document, which, at the T-KH level, indicates [ ] number of launches expected during each fiscal year. [ ] cautioned that the mission projections are estimates for use in long-range planning for exploitation and

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should not be considered as actual launch schedules. Other data will be provided separately for short-term (FY 72) planning purposes.

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14. [ ] noted that the [ ] information included in the draft had been provided by the NRO and authorized for use at the T-KH level. [ ]

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[ ] He also pointed out that a text for Section III (Basic Exploitation Program) of the draft was not yet available since work on the basic program was still under way in EXSUBCOM.

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15. The CIA Member queried as to the proposed timing for action on the paper. [ ] explained there are two categories of potential customers for the information. One, the working managers in the exploitation community, will already have advance access to the compiled data as a result of the draft distribution. The other is USIB itself. The NTP charge is that COMIREX will forward to USIB for approval by 1 October of each year "... a 'Program for Planning the Exploitation of Reconnaissance Imagery' for five fiscal years in the future...." Although the Committee early this year coordinated a document on this subject covering FY 1971-75 (COMIREX-D-31.5/4), it was not felt to have met the requirement expressed in the National Tasking Plan and was not forwarded to the Board. Cumulative statistical data was not available at that time to permit development of a meaningful five-year projection. (See COMIREX-M-86, pages 10 and 11.)

16. Members were asked to review the draft and attached extracts from the NTP. Further discussion on this item would be scheduled for a subsequent meeting.

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Section VI (Subcommittee and Working Group Reports)

None

Secretary's Note

DIA Request for Use of Sanitized KH-4 Imagery in Support of  
CINCPAC OPLANS 27 and 42 (COMIREX-D-2.6/6) (T-KH)

1. Telephonic concurrence in the SDWG recommendation to approve DIA's request for use of sanitized KH-4 imagery in support of CINCPAC OPLANS 27 and 42 was received from all COMIREX members. DIA was notified by the Chairman, SDWG, of COMIREX approval of this request on 12 October.

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[Redacted Signature]

Executive Secretary  
Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

Attachments  
Tabs A and B

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Tab B

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Report on Aircraft and Drone Activities  
(1-14 October 1970)

FAR EAST

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>MSN NO.</u>	<u>AREAS/TARGETS</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
2 Oct	Q661/761	Haiphong Port/NVB	MARS
6 Oct	Q633A/764	Ben Thuy TSP/Quang Khe TSP SAM Sites	MARS
7 Oct	Q646/766	Haiphong Port/Cam Pha Port Kien An Afld	MARS
9 Oct	Q662/767		LOST
10 Oct	Q655/768	Cam Pha Port Hon Gai Port/Kep Afld	MARS
12 Oct	Q654/769	Haiphong NVB Cat Bi Afld/Kien An Afld	MARS
12 Oct	Q663/770	Rte 15/101/103 Vinh Afld SAM Sites	MARS
14 Oct	Q588/771	Bai Thuong Afld/Ben Thuy TSP Hon Nieu Anchorage	MARS
		SUCCESSFUL - 7 LOST - 1	

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Areas/Targets</u>	<u>Results</u>
3 Oct	GA205C	Laos	50%
4 Oct	GA206A	Laos	85%
5 Oct	GA207	Laos	87%
14 Oct	GA208D	Laos	UNK

GIANT SCALE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Areas/Targets</u>	<u>Results</u>
3 Oct	S293	N. Vietnam/Laos	50%
7 Oct	S295	N. Vietnam/Laos	70%

IDEALIST/TACKLE

There were no IDEALIST/TACKLE missions during the period.

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Tab B

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Coverage of Special Targets in South China and North Vietnam

a. Surveillance Coverage of Lines of Communication (LOC) Targets to Detect the Introduction of Chinese Forces into North Vietnam (see COMOR-D-25/207, 4 March 1966)

During the period 1-14 October, surveillance coverage was reported on seven of the 320 LOC targets in South China and North Vietnam. The targets covered, all in North Vietnam, are listed below:

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TARGET

MOST RECENT COVERAGE

DONG HOI AIRFIELD  
CAM PHA PORT FACILITIES  
HAI YEN COASTAL TRNSHP PT  
QUANG KHE TRNSP PT SONG GIANG  
HA NOI ARMY BKS W MAI DICH  
HA DONG ARMY BKS A VEH MAINTENANCE  
LAO CAI RR CLF YD

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Tab B

b. Coverage of North Vietnam to Detect  
Possible Introduction or Deployment of Offensive  
Missile Systems (see COMOR-D-25/200, 23 May 1967,  
and COMIREX-D-25.3/2, 20 November 1967)

See grid maps on pages B-6 and B-7 for  
coverage of North Vietnam to detect possible  
introduction or deployment of offensive missile  
systems for the time periods listed below:

<u>Period of Coverage</u>	<u>Number of Missions on Which Information Not Yet Available</u>
24 Sep - 30 Sep	0
1 Oct - 7 Oct	1

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Tab B

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CUBA

OLD HEAD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MSN NO.</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
3 Oct	G138	86%
6 Oct	G139	85%
9 Oct	G140	85%
11 Oct	G141	80%
12 Oct	G142	92%

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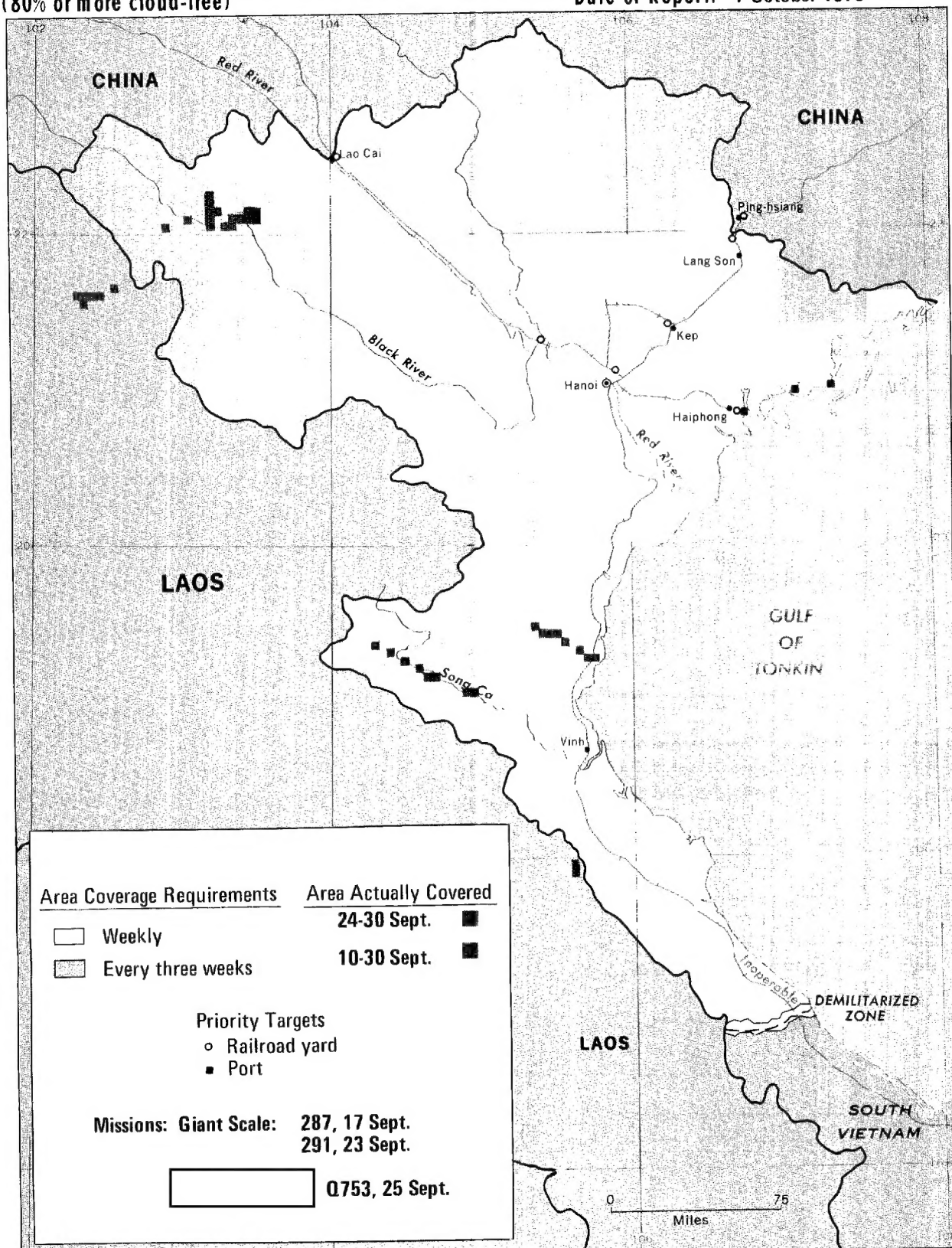
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# High Resolution Coverage of North Vietnam

(80% or more cloud-free)

Date of Report: 7 October 1970



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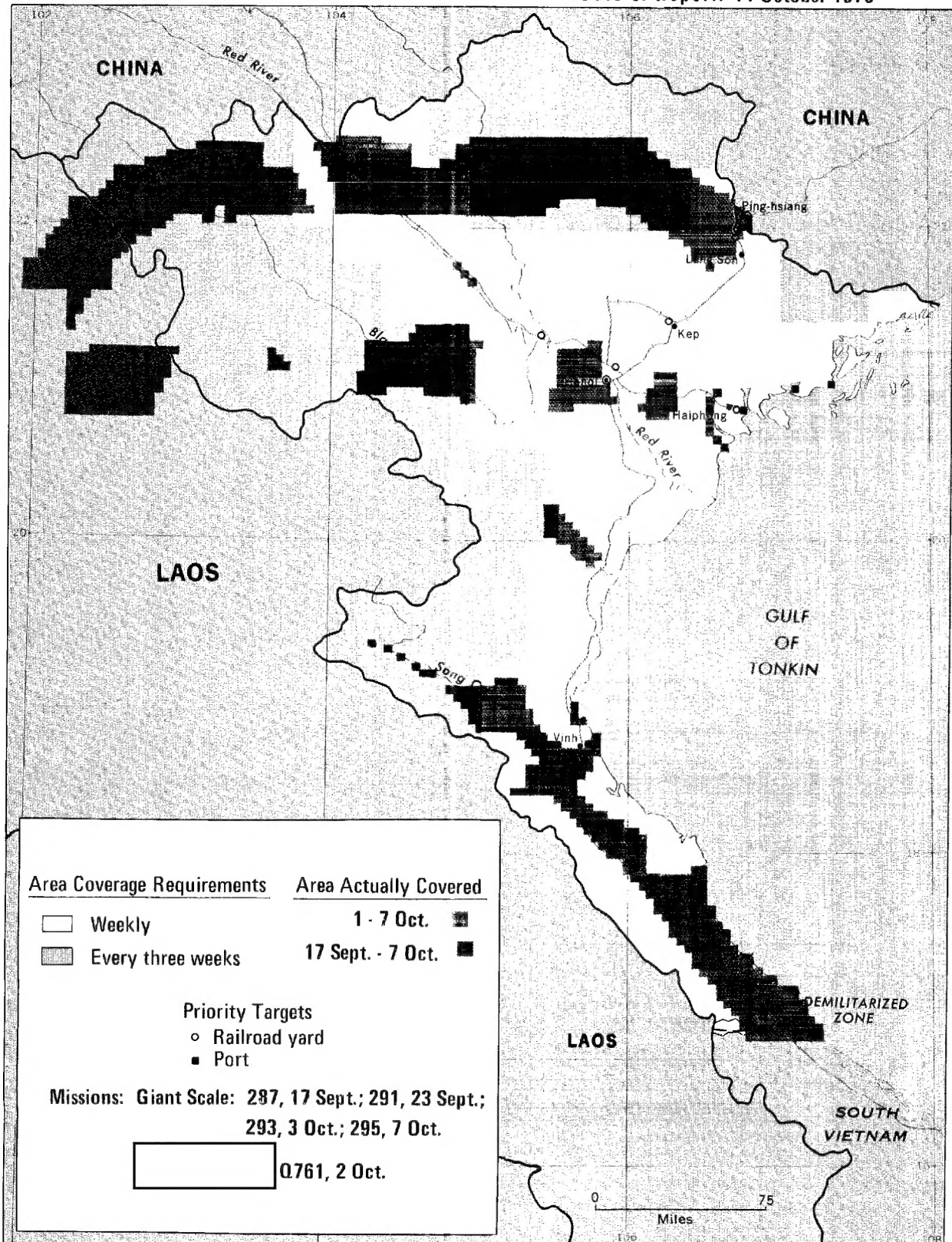
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# High Resolution Coverage of North Vietnam

(80% or more cloud-free)

Date of Report: 14 October 1970



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